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BOX PCT
IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE
OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY--CHAPTER II

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A
PRIOR TO ACTION

APPLICANT(S): WALTER AIGNER ET AL
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: P01,0104
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO: PCT/EP99/06842
INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: 16 SEPTEMBER 1999
INVENTION: METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE POSITION OF
TEXT LINES IN TEXT RECOGNITION TASKS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants herewith amend the above-referenced PCT application, and request entry of the Amendment prior to examination on the United States Examination Phase.

IN THE CLAIMS:

On amended page 9:

replace line 1 with --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--;

Please replace original claims 1-3 with the following replacement claims 1-3, referring to the mark-ups in Appendix A.

1) (Amended) A method for determining the position of text lines in text recognition tasks, comprising the steps of:

determining a brightness distribution of an acquired image excerpt along a vertical by histogram formation along said lines;

smoothing said brightness distribution is smoothed;